

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-18 remain pending in the present application.

For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended the specification to include a cross-reference to the related applications and properly indicate the priority for the present application. Specifically, the specification indicates that the present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/221,276, now U.S. Patent 6,714,199, filed December 23, 1998, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/630,864, now U.S. Patent 5,926,189, filed March 29, 1996.

Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ballard (6,288,726). Applicant respectfully submits that the present application has a priority date which precedes the effective date of the Ballard reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is moot.

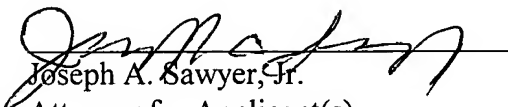
With regard to the double patenting rejection of claims 1-8 over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent 6,714,199, Applicant respectfully requests deferral of a terminal disclaimer to overcome the rejection until such time as it is deemed necessary and appropriate upon allowance of the present application.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP

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Date


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